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New York, NY 10128
Jan. 19, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852


Dear Sirs:

I am writing you today to encourage you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 prohibiting the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals that are so sick or injured that they cannot stand should never be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to the usual risks of bacterial contamination, there is evidence that downed animals can be afflicted with Mad Cow Disease. Downed animals cannot be moved humanely; they are often pushed or dragged by tractors. These practices lead to terrible injuries such as broken bones and torn ligaments. This constitutes extremely inhumane treatment to poor and helpless animals.

Finally, I wish to point out that downed animals constitute a very small percentage of slaughtered animals and prohibiting their use would not cause undue economic hardship to the industry. Also, most of these cases could be prevented with better care, thus removing the market for these animals will provide an incentive to prevent downed animals to begin with.

Sincerely yours,

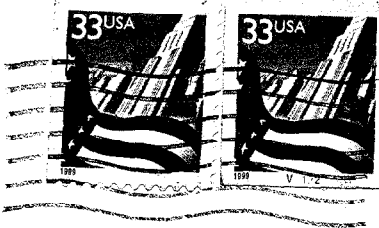


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